

**REINSTATEMENT: John C. Landis**

By Order dated January 25, 2005, the Delaware Supreme Court (the "Court") approved the findings and recommendations of a panel of the Board on Professional Responsibility (the "Board"), and ordered that John C. Landis, a member of the bar since 1978, be reinstated as a member of the Delaware Bar effective immediately.

By Order dated May 14, 2004, the Court ordered that Landis, a lawyer practicing in the Public Defender's Office, be suspended from the practice of law in Delaware for a period of three (3) years. *In re Landis*, 850 A.2d 291 (Del. 2004). The Court's order also provided that if Landis fulfilled all applicable terms and conditions of the Court's order for six months, he would be relieved of the remaining 30 months of suspension and could petition for immediate reinstatement.

Landis was suspended from practice based upon evidence that he had engaged in conduct in connection with his private practice of law which violated the Delaware Lawyers' Rules of Professional Conduct. The violations included failures over a period of several years to file and pay his income taxes and his law practice payroll taxes, and failures properly to maintain his law practice bank accounts. In the May 14, 2004 suspension decision, the Court determined that although Landis' misconduct was repeated and serious in nature, warranting his suspension from the practice of law, the mitigating factors in the record strongly favored Landis. These mitigating factors included Landis' acknowledgment of the wrongfulness of his conduct and the significant steps taken to rectify his bookkeeping and tax problems; the fact that he had suffered serious personal and emotional problems, which were being addressed; and that he had cooperated fully with the ODC throughout the proceedings. Another mitigating factor considered by the Court was the fact that Landis has devoted his career to public service.

Landis complied with the conditions of the Court's suspension order for six months, as required, and petitioned for immediate reinstatement. In ordering his reinstatement, the Court directed that, pursuant to its May 14, 2004 disciplinary order, Landis shall be subject to a three-

year period of public probation, subject to the terms and conditions specified by the Board, and shall be subject to the permanent practice limitations and other limitations and conditions specified by the Board. (Supreme Court No. 18, 2005)